

PROGRAM NARRATIVE STATEMENT

1) OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS 2012

Helping Our Nations Empowering Youth Project (HONEY Project) is an international economic development project that produces social entrepreneurs working to alleviate global poverty. Our mission is simple: train, inspire and empower people to impact the world through social enterprise.

The Helping Our Nations Empowering Youth Project seeks to work cooperatively with the global community to address social issues such as youth unemployment, poverty alleviation and the preservation of our environment. Since 2009, the HONEY Project has expanded its mission and goals from the initial outreach project of honey production, to other micro-enterprises designed to train young people how to be social innovators and change agents through social entrepreneurship.

HONEY project was created to provide positive opportunities for people ages 15 and up; while addressing the issues of poverty relief, sustainable development and youth empowerment.

2) DESCRIPTION OF HOW OUR OVERALL PROGRAM ACHIEVED ITS GOALS:

There are four HONEY Project initiatives specifically designed to impact social issues in the areas of youth empowerment, poverty alleviation and the environment:

HONEY PROJECT ACADEMY OF TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

(www.honeyprojectacademy.org)

The HONEY Project Academy provides social entrepreneurship training and real-time invaluable business experience combined with mentoring and continuing education. The aim of the HONEY Project Academy is to utilize social enterprise and emerging technology to expose change agents to the world of entrepreneurship. The academy offers several interactive and innovative training programs that provide the foundation for business success.

HONEY PROJECT GLOBAL OUTREACH

The HONEY Project Global Outreach initiative was created to address social and economic disparities in emerging nations. Global Outreach provides on the ground training and support to implement sustainable poverty relief programs. HONEY Project Global Outreach seeks to create market-based solutions to address sustainable development.

Outreach Accomplishments:

- Established Agogo Cooperative for women and subsistent farmers
- Planted over 100 beehives in the village of Agogo
- Provided beekeeping equipment to cooperative
- Signed MOU with social services organization to provide training to 5 high schools in Ghana
- Formed partnership with Agogo Youth Association to provide mentoring and training
- Adopted two high schools in Agogo to help implement internet connectivity

HONEY PROJECT XCHANGE

HONEY Project xChange is a cultural and educational exchange program for aspiring change agents featuring inbound and outbound missions to emerging nations. The HONEY Project will provide practical on-the-ground experience in global business development and sustainability. HONEY Project Academy graduates will help design and implement social and environmental projects in designated communities selected for the potential of positive impact and most need.

xChange Accomplishments:

- **xChange Mission 2009-6** xChange Agents travelled to Ghana, Africa. Met current Ghanaian President John Atta Mills, and conducted initial meetings with Agogo Cooperative.
- **xChange Mission 2011-7** xChange Agents travelled to Ghana, Africa. Conducted empowerment workshops with Agogo high school students, planted teak trees and completed 4 project proposals.

- **xChange Mission 2012**-Planned July 7-19, 2012

HONEY PROJECT INVEST

HONEY Project Invest will provide microloans to young people and incubate their business in an effort to help them build sustainable and self-sufficient companies. Our microloan program was created to provide young entrepreneurs with an opportunity to start their own business ventures.

Portfolio Companies Created:

- Legacy Video & Production, LLC
- Liquid Bleu Studios
- Urban Youth Green Farmers
- Baby Doll Productions
- Bonsu Bracelet Company

Upon completion of the HONEY Project Academy students are eligible to become “Certified Change Agents” (CCAs) where they have the unique opportunity to manage and run their own social business. The Helping Our Nations Empowering Youth Project is distinct in that after the entrepreneurship training; it provides real time application in running and managing a for-profit or non-profit business.

The HONEY Project relies heavily on technology to provide a 21st Century learning platform to assist students in learning the importance of creating something that matters. Expanding and maintaining a vibrant, compelling and optimized website and the utilization of emerging technology will be vital for the operation of the business. Corporate partner, Citrix Systems has provided Go-To-Meeting Corporate, a Web conferencing tool that allows participants to meet online rather than in a conference or classroom. It’s the easiest and most cost-effective way to organize and attend meetings, allowing greater opportunity for nationwide and global participation. Our goal by 2013 is

to connect the two Agogo high schools to the internet to conduct distance learning and e-learning programs between students and teachers from the US and Ghana.

The HONEY Project, One Village Planet and Citrix Systems collectively worked together to assist with rural development initiative in Agogo. The HONEY Project has successfully facilitated the formation of the Agogo Farmer's Cooperative and has assisted in the development of a new micro-enterprise; honey production and processing, which will directly benefit sustenance farmers of Agogo and other surrounding villages.

3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION

Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities is led by a board of directors and an executive committee, one part time staff person, 17 sister cities and 13 supporting committees. All funds for the programs are raised by the committees with a small annual stipend, which must be voted annually by Fort Lauderdale City Commissioners. GFLSCI fosters their relationship with their community partners, including the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, One Village Planet, Nova Southeastern University, The Economic Development Department of the City of Fort Lauderdale, The Broward Alliance, Port Everglades and The Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival which has contributed to the success of our programs in the community.

4) DESCRIPTION OF HOW SPECIFIC PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES WERE CHOSEN AND IMPLEMENTED

The HONEY Project responds to the crucial need to address global poverty alleviation by providing a unique, innovative and holistic program for young people and adults who are motivated and in search of positive and enriching experiences and Agogo, Ghana, represents the ideal city to participate in this program not only because they have the resources but because it is one of the our sister communities that is in most need.

5) DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE SISTER CITY PROGRAM

All profits from the project will be used to continue to: 1) train young people in understanding the free market economy and social entrepreneurship 2) provide global poverty relief 3) ensure Project self-sufficiency and sustainability.

6) WHY WE DESERVE THE AWARD

Since its conception in 2006, the Helping Our Nations Empowering Youth Project has evolved from a simple youth training program into a comprehensive global project engaging young people throughout the United States and the world. Hundreds of students from Florida to Kentucky have graduated from the HONEY Project Academy. Four of the graduates have established and incorporated individual businesses in the State of Florida. Globally, the HONEY Project has now been introduced to young people in Ghana, Taiwan, Colombia and Italy. The Honey Project not only alleviates poverty in the participating countries but it instills important values and valuable social entrepreneurship skills to our future generations.